Outcome of Aviation Conference held at New Delhi

3346. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Aviation Conference with the help of Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission was recently held at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what were the decisions taken at the Conference to promote the sale of Indian Oil in order to grab a fresh hold in aviation tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, International Aviation Conference is organized by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on yearly basis. During the year 2003, 12th International aviation conference was held on 21st and 22nd February, 2003 at Cochin. 95 delegates from 20 countries attended the conference. During the conference, views were exchanged amongst the delegates on trends in global civil aviation, strategy for Indian Civil Aviation, Airport privatisation, alternative aviation fuels, futuristic trends for aircraft maintenance and trends of the specification for ATF etc.

Import of Crude from Iraq

3347. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is still contract-bound with SOMO of Iraq to import 2 million tonnes of crude a year;

(b) whether India has cut its import indent to just one cargo a month because of the on-going crisis;

(c) whether China, Japan and Korea have established direct oil import links with Iraq; and

(d) to what extent the present UN sanction on Iraq is effecting the sourcing of Iraqi crude by India and other SE Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The crude oil imports from Iraq during 2001-02 and 2002-03 were about 3.8 million metric tonnes (MMT) and 4.1 MMT respectively. These